

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 561 - SB 477

March 11, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the State Board of Education to develop a foreign language proficiency exam and that the examination be given to students who have been exposed to a foreign language in a non-classroom setting. Defines "proficient" as a student who demonstrates an intermediate range of proficiency according to the American Council's performance guidelines for the teaching of foreign languages (ACTFL).

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase Local Expenditures – \$165,000/Recurring*
\$8,800/One-Time***

Assumptions:

- The ACTFL has four methods of proficiency testing, written, oral, listening, and reading (done by fall 2009). Each method per language is paid for individually by the student and must be given by a certified proctor who must take a certification test individually per method per language. The state will use ACTFL tests.
- No change in the BEP formula, all costs will be incurred by local education agencies (LEAs).
- Each test method (certification and student) costs a different amount. For the oral test, the student cost is \$109 per student and the certification test is \$134 per proctor. For the written test, the cost is \$50 per student and the certification test is \$65 per proctor.
- There are approximately 33,000 English Language Learner (ELL) students. It is estimated that approximately 10 percent of these (3,300) will take one test per year. A minimum of one proctor per LEA will be needed. For the purposes of this estimate, only the cost for the writing portion is used.
- Total increase in recurring expenditures for student tests at 10 percent participation rate is approximately \$165,000 (3,300 x \$50). Total

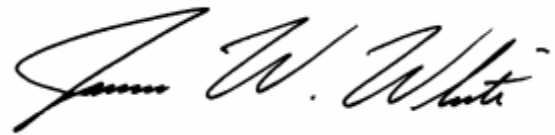
HB 561 - SB 477

increase in one-time expenditures for teacher certification tests is approximately \$8,840 (136 x \$65).

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/msg